

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 07456 301350Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 FBIE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03

H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01

/055 W

----- 121113

R 300958Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3992

C O N F I E N I A L MANILA 7456

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJ: MARCOS ASSASSINATION PLOT REINVESTIGATION

REF: MANILA 7227

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON MAY 29, ONE-TIME MANILA MAYORALTY CANDIDATE, EDUARDO FIGUERAS, IDENTIFIED SEN. SERGIO OSMENA JR. AND LARRY TRACTMAN AS BRAINS BEHIND MARCOS ASSASSINATION PLOT. FIGUERAS TESTIFIED THAT HE AND OSMENA JR. HAD TOLD EUGENIO LOPEZ SR. GROUP BACKED BY "AMERICAN INTERESTS" WAS PLOTTING TO KILL PRESIDENT. FIGUERAS CLAIMED THAT WHILE HE AND TRACTMAN WERE IN NEW YORK, SAM CUMMINS, A US ARMS DEALER, CONVINCED THEM TO USE THE EXPLOSIVE CHEMICAL ASTROPAC IN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS. WHEN EFFORTS TO ASSASSINATE MARCOS BY EXPLOSIVES ABORTED, LOPEZ JR. ALLEGEDLY SUGGESTED IMPORTING GUNMAN. (AMCIT LEHMAN). FIGUERAS' TESTIMONY IS NOTABLE FOR ITS DETAIL AND EMPHASIS ON "AMERICAN INTERESTS" AND AMERICANS ALLEGEDLY CONNECTED WITH ASSASSINATION PLOT, CONCEIVABLY ASSASSINATION PLOT COULD TAKE ANTI-AMERICAN TWIST THROUGH THIS STILL APPEARS UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY

1. ON MAY 29, REINVESTIGATION PANEL HEARD TESTIMONY FROM EDUARDO FIGUERAS, FORMER CANDIDATE FOR MANILA MAYORALTY. FIGUERAS, WHO SAID HE WANTED "MAKE CLEAN BREAST OF EVERY-THING", IDENTIFIED OSMENA AND LARRY TRACTMAN AS BRAINS BEHIND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 07456 301350Z

ASSASSINATION PLOT. FIGUERAS SAID THAT THEY HAD RECRUITED

HIM IN MID 1970. OSMENA JR. TOLD HIM THAT HE WAS COOPERATING WITH LOPEZ SR. FIGUERAS SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN "SO CONFUSED BY THE MACHINATIONS AND INSIDUOUS REMARKS OF OSMENA JR. AND TRACTMAN" HE AGREED TO ASSIST IN PLOT TO KILL PRESIDENT BUT ONLY AFTER LOPEZ SR. TOLD HIM MARCOS WAS BENT ON HIS (FIGUERAS') FINANCIAL DESTRUCTION. DURING FIGUERAS' TESTIMONY, PROSECUTION INTRODUCED AFFIDAVIT BASED ON FIGUERAS' STATEMENT WHEN INTERROGATED BY PSC. FIGUERAS REPORTEDLY STATED THAT HE AND SERGIO OSMENA JR. TOLD EUGENIO LOPEZ SR. THAT A GROUP "BACKED BY AMERICAN INTERESTS" WAS PLOTTING TO KILL THE PRESIDENT".

2. FIGUERAS TESTIFIED LOPEZ SR. SAID HE WOULD USE LOPEZ JR. AS COORDINATOR BETWEEN OSMENA GROUP AND LOPEZ FAMILY. FIGUERAS SAID HE HAD WISHED TO TALK TO VICE PRESIDENT FERNANDO LOPEZ BUT OSMENA DISSUADED HIM SAYING "WHATEVER EUGENIO LOPEZ SR. SAYS THE VICE PRESIDENT FOLLOWS". FIGUERAS SAID THAT OSMENA (WHO FELT MARCOS HAD STOLEN THE 1969 ELECTION) ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO FOMENT A REVOLUTION USING "50 STEN GUNS" TO AMBUSH PRESIDENT. WHILE FIGUERAS AND TRACTMAN WERE IN NEW YORK, HOWEVER, ARMS DEALER SAM CUMMINS ALLEGEDLY CONVINCED THEM TO USE AN UNTRACEABLE CHEMICAL KNOWN AS ASTROPAC IN THEIR EFFORTS. FIGUERAS THEN DETAILED VARIOUS ABORTIVE ATTEMPTS ASSASSINATE MARCOS USING ASTROPAC INCLUDING FIRST ATTEMPT DURING STATE VISIT IN FEB. 1972 OF INDONESIAN PRESIDENT SUHARTO. WHEN THESE ATTEMPTS FAILED, EUGENIO LOPEZ JR. ALLEGEDLY SUGGESTED "LET US USE A GUN MAN". THIS LED TO IMPORTATION OF LEHMAN.

3. COMMENT: FIGUERAS' TESTIMONY WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON TRACTMAN ROE, UNSPECIFIED "AMERICAN INTERESTS", NAMING OF CUMMINS, ETC. PROVIDES POTENTIAL FOR ASSASSINATION PLOT TAKING ANTI-AMERICAN TWIST IN EVENT MARCOS SHOULD DETERMINE THIS SOMEHOW SERVES HIS INTEREST. WE HAVE NO RPT NO REASON TO BELIEVE THIS IS LIKELY, HOWEVER.
PURNELL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, PLOTS, INVESTIGATIONS, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA07456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750189-0903
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975056/aaaaaerd.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANILA 7227
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <24 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCOS ASSASSINATION PLOT REINVESTIGATION
TAGS: PINS, CASC, RP, US, (MARCOS, FERDINAND), (LEHMAN, AUGUST MCCORMICK JR), (LOPEZ, EUGENIO JR), (OSMENA, SERGIO III), (FIGUERAS, EDUARDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006